

POWER AND BUDGET NOTEBOOKS

Power notebooks		Last month's position	First reviewed	World-Bench 4	Price	Warranty	Processor type/clock speed	RAM	Hard disk capacity	Modem	Network card	Dimensions (width x depth x height)		Weight	Screen size/type	Maximum resolution	Graphics card	Graphics memory	Dual-speed processor	DVD drive speed	Internal/external floppy disk drive	CD-RW read/write/rewrite rate	Battery type	Operating system & other extras
1	Hi-Grade Ultinote M6400-1800-I 020 8532 6100 www.higrade.com	1	Apr 02	118	£1,509	2-year return to base	Intel Pentium 4/1.8GHz	512MB	40GB	56K	Y	313x263x36mm		2.95kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	ATI Mobility M6	16MB	N/A	8x (combo drive)	external	24x/8x/4x	lithium-ion	Windows XP Home, Office XP SBE
2	Compaq Evo N600c 0845 270 4222 www.compaq.co.uk	2	Feb 02	103	£1,537	3-year parts and labour	Intel Mobile Pentium III/1.06GHz	128MB	20GB	56K	Y	305x249x30mm		2.7kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	ATI Radeon Mobility	16MB	Intel Speedstep	8x	N/A	N/A	lithium-ion	Windows 2000 Professional
3	Rock Agenda Si 0870 908 888 www.rockdirect.com	3	Mar 02	99	£1,599	3-year collect and return	Intel Mobile Pentium III/1.2GHz	384MB	30GB	56K	Y	310x265x40mm		3.4kg	15.1in/TFT	1,024x768	SIS 630S	variable	Intel Speedstep	N/A	internal	20x/4x/4x	lithium-ion	Windows XP Professional
4	AJP 8170 Pro 020 8208 9700 www.ajp.co.uk	NEW	May 02	97	£1,485	1-year return to base	Intel Pentium 4/2GHz	512MB	40GB	56K	Y	310x266x40mm		2.95kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	ATI Mobility M6	16MB	N/A	8x (combo drive)	external	24x/8x/4x	lithium-ion	Windows XP Professional
5	Sony Vaio PCG-GR215MP 0870 542 4424 www.vaio.sony-europe.com	4	Mar 02	96	£1,619	1-year return to base	Intel Mobile Pentium III/1GHz	256MB	30GB	56K	Y	325x270x37mm		3.15kg	15in/TFT	1,024x768	ATI Radeon Mobility	16MB	Intel Speedstep	8x	optional	24x/8x/4x	lithium-ion	Windows XP, Sony Utilities, Adobe Premiere, PictureGear
Budget notebooks																								
1	Mesh Pegasus 14.1 Pro 020 8208 4702 www.meshcomputers.com	1	Mar 02	82	£999	2-year return to base	AMD Mobile Athlon 4/1.2GHz	384MB	20GB	56K	Y	308x254x38mm		3kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	S3 Twister K	user-definable 8/16/32MB	AMD PowerNow	8x	internal	N/A	lithium-ion	Windows XP Home, Microsoft Works Suite 2002
2	AJP 7321 Budget 020 8208 9700 www.ajp.co.uk	2	Mar 02	85	£1,099	1-year return to base	AMD Mobile Athlon 4/1.1GHz	384MB	20GB	56K	Y	310x265x40mm		3.2kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	S3 Twister K	user-definable 8/16/32/64MB	AMD PowerNow	8x	internal	24x/4x/4x	lithium-ion	Windows XP Home, Microsoft Works 6.0
3	HP Pavilion zt 1121s 0870 241 3625 www.hp.co.uk	NEW	May 02	68	£850	1-year return to base	Intel Mobile Celeron/1.06GHz	128MB	20GB	56K	Y	318x273x36mm		2.6kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	S3 Savage	32MB	Intel Speedstep	8x	N/A	N/A	lithium-ion	Windows XP Home, Microsoft Works Suite 2002, Works 6.0
4	AJP 8170 020 8208 9700 www.ajp.co.uk	3	Apr 02	99	£1,299	1-year return to base	Intel Pentium 4/1.7GHz	512MB	40GB	56K	Y	313x263x36mm		3kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	ATI Mobility M6	16MB	N/A	8x	external	N/A	lithium-ion	Windows 2000 Professional, Microsoft Works 6.0
5	Rock Sigma Si Combo 0870 908 888 www.rockdirect.com	4	Mar 02	84	£1,199	1-year collect and return	Intel Pentium III flip chip/1.2GHz	256MB	30GB	56K	Y	308x254x38mm		3.2kg	14.1in/TFT	1,024x768	SIS 630S onboard	user-definable 8/16/32/64MB	N/A	8x	internal	20x/4x/4x	lithium-ion	Windows XP Home, McAfee AntiVirus

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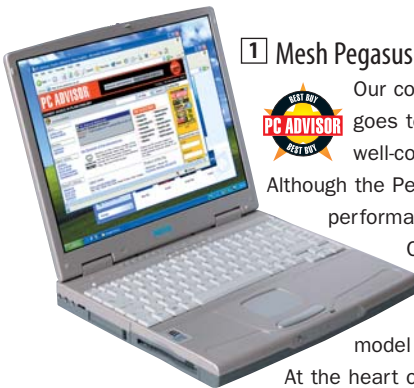
**1 Hi-Grade Ultinote M6400-1800-I**  
Our number one machine, the Hi-Grade Ultinote M6400-1800-I, uses a 1.8GHz Pentium 4 processor to great effect. Twinned with 512MB of RAM and a 16MB DDR (double data rate) RAM ATI Mobility M6 graphics chip, it pulled in a WorldBench 4 score of 118. That beats the Compaq Evo N600c by 15 points and, at just £9 over our starting cost of £1,500, it makes the Ultinote a worthy winner. As with all notebooks using a desktop processor, battery life is not this model's strength – Hi-Grade claims a life of just 1.5



**2 Compaq Evo N600c**  
Despite a 1.06GHz Intel Mobile Pentium III processor lying beneath its slim exterior, the Compaq Evo's WorldBench 4 score of 103 managed to beat the 1.2GHz Rock Agenda Si. The N600c weighs a mere 2.7kg – only the → Turn to page 118 to continue the Power notebooks chart

hours. However, if you are happy to use the Ultinote as a desktop replacement PC, this won't be a problem. It comes with a 40GB hard drive and a combo DVD/CD-RW drive, offering eight-speed DVD and 24-/eight-/quad-speed (read/write/rewrite) CD-RW facilities. It also features a 14.1in screen capable of a maximum resolution of 1,024x768. But software is pretty limited – Office XP SBE is as much as you get.

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**1 Mesh Pegasus 14.1 Pro**  
Our coveted Best Buy award once again goes to the Pegasus 14.1 Pro, which is a well-considered package at a great price. Although the Pegasus couldn't match the performance of its competitors and lacks a CD-RW drive, it has many redeeming features. The plain metallic design isn't a head-turner, but it's a sturdy model with plenty of beauty on the inside. At the heart of the Pegasus is AMD's Mobile Athlon 4 chip, running at a speed of 1.2GHz, which is twinned with 384MB of SDRAM. As the WorldBench 4 score of 82 demonstrates, there's little difference in performance between Intel's and AMD's notebook processors. A 20GB hard drive is standard and the Pegasus comes with enough ports to make it a

decent desktop replacement, although we'd like to see the inclusion of a FireWire port. The rest of the specification is par for the course, with a DVD drive, user-definable graphics memory and a 14.1in screen.



**2 AJP 7321**  
The 7321 is similar in looks and setup to the Best Buy machine but misses the top spot because it can't match the warranty, software bundle or price. That said, the AJP is good value for money and a powerful performer. An ample 384MB of SDRAM is combined with an AMD Mobile Athlon 4 processor and 20GB hard drive. The clock → Turn to page 118 to continue the Budget notebooks chart



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Sony Vaio PCG-R600 is lighter. In terms of graphics, the Radeon Mobility card will maximise frame rates, making this one notebook that won't falter on 3D graphics. The N600c's 14.1in screen may not be huge, but its colour scheme and character definition are second to none. Storage and drives on the Evo aren't that generous: the hard drive is hardly the most capacious at 20GB and, although DVD playback is provided, CD-RW and floppy drives are absent. Overall, the Evo is an affordable, high-performance device that's slim and light enough to remain portable.

### 3 Rock Agenda Si

Rock notebooks are superb value for money, and the Agenda is no exception with a tempting £1,599 price tag. The Si squeezes in a 1.2GHz Intel Mobile Pentium III chip and its 384MB of RAM is generous. But all this only achieved a WorldBench 4 score of 99, probably because of the onboard SIS graphics controller, which has no memory of its own and uses the main RAM instead. This is the one weak link in Rock's setup and is a shame because the 15.1in screen offers clear image reproduction.



### 4 AJP 8170 Pro

AJP's 8170 Pro has come in at a rather disappointing fourth place in the chart this month, but it seems the curse of the Pentium 4 has struck again. Despite using a 2GHz version of this desktop processor, its WorldBench score of 97 is the second slowest in the chart. However, in other ways, it offers excellent specifications, twinning the Pentium 4 processor with 512MB of RAM and a 16MB DDR (double data rate) RAM ATI Mobility M6 graphics chip. A similar specification on the Hi-Grade last month won our highest ever score, so we can only suppose that Hi-Grade set up its review notebook for optimum performance.



### 5 Sony Vaio PCG-GR215MP

With a WorldBench 4 score of 96, the PCG-GR215MP is not the most powerful notebook in our chart. This Vaio features some refined curves and pairs a 1GHz Intel Mobile Pentium III with 256MB of RAM. Graphics performance is impressive, with the ATI Radeon Mobility complementing the 15in screen. The CD-RW is another smooth operator, with eight-/quad-speed CD-R/RW functionality. The Vaio's major flaw is its price – balanced specs and a stylish case may not be enough to justify the £1,619 price tag.



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speed is 100MHz slower than most of the competition, but it still managed to rack up a respectable WorldBench 4 score of 85. One advantage the AJP 7321 has over our Mesh winner is the inclusion of a combination drive. The eight-speed DVD player also doubles up as a CD-RW drive, which is sensible as there's rarely room on a notebook for two drives unless one is external. It also means that the AJP offers decent backup capabilities. The AJP is well equipped for desktop replacement, covering most of the ports necessary for optimal connectivity except FireWire.

### 3 HP Pavilion zt 1121s

HP is targeting the home and student market with its all-new Pavilion zt 1121s. There is no floppy drive, but it does offer you a discount on an external USB unit. The notebook has an attractive grey and silver finish, and some funky purple lights around the touch pad. Performance from the 1.06GHz Mobile Celeron twinned with 128MB RAM, 20GB hard drive and S3 Savage onboard graphics was not the best – managing a WorldBench score of 68. However, what keeps this low score from pulling it down is the equally low price. You can get more performance for your money, but not from a brand with such an established record for quality.



### 4 AJP 8170 Budget

AJP's 8170 Budget doesn't fare as well as the Recommended 7321 due to its excessive price tag of £1,299. The 8170 uses a 1.7GHz Pentium 4 processor, twinned with 512MB RAM, and achieved a WorldBench 4 score of 99, which easily makes it the fastest notebook in the Budget notebook chart. With its 40GB hard drive, eight-speed DVD-ROM and 14.1in screen, the AJP is no slouch when it comes to specifications. However, with Windows 2000 Pro and Microsoft Works 6.0, software is pretty limited.



### 5 Rock Sigma Si Combo

Despite only having 256MB of SDRAM, Rock managed to squeeze a WorldBench 4 performance score of 84 out of the Sigma. Powering the Combo is a 1.2GHz Intel Pentium III flip chip, which offers plenty of power, but the battery life isn't as long and may be prone to overheating. Having said this, we didn't experience any problems. Rock's 30GB hard drive has been designed as a silent runner, so operating noise is reduced. The combination DVD/CD-RW drive is a great addition and a FireWire port has also been included. However, there's no serial port.

